



Borough of Kendal.

Westmorland

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1935.

KENDAL:
WESTMORLAND GAZETTE, PRINTERS.

—
1936.



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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Kendal.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1935.

The arrangement of the same is similar to that of the previous year and is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health's communication of October 18th, 1935.

Except where any changes have occurred in the matter of Nursing in the Home, Laboratory arrangements, Hospital accommodation, Ambulance Facilities and the establishment of new Clinics and Treatment Centres, the general details have been omitted.

The Area of the Borough has been extended during the year by the addition of portions from the following parishes—Natland, Hel-sington, Underbarrow and Bradley Field, Strickland Ketel, Skels-mergh and Scalthwaiterigg. These changes took place on April 1, but in order that a fair comparison may be made between the statis-tics of this and subsequent years, the figures concerning the first three months have been included in such a manner as though the boundary changes had taken place on January 1.

The work of your Sanitary Department has been carried out efficiently and promptly by your Sanitary Inspectors. The work of this Department increases year by year and preparation for a Hous-ing Enquiry and the obtaining of statistics for the purpose of the Housing Act, 1935, have kept officials very busy during the year.

It is with pleasure that I am able to state that J. H. Major, one of the Assistants to the Sanitary Inspector, has qualified as a Sani-tary Inspector.

All your officials have been continually obliging and helpful.

The Medical Profession, for the most part, has been ever ready to afford me its loyal support, without which there could be little progress in preventive medicine.

To one and all I tender my sincerest thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

12th May, 1936.

STAFF.

NAME.	QUALIFICATIONS.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
W. B. Cockill	M.D. etc., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part	M.O.H. Westmorland Combined Districts.
G. Jackson	M.R. San. I.	Sanitary Inspector	Whole	—
B. Rigg	A.R. San. I.	Additional San. Inspector	Whole	—
J. H. Major	A.R. San. I.	Assistant San. Inspectors	Whole	—
A. J. Birkett	—		Whole	—
E. E. Petersen	C.M.B. Queen's Cert., Cert. in General Training and Cert. for Health Visitors.	School Nurse.	Whole for 6 months	—
E. Metcalfe	S.R.N. Health Visitor. R. San. I. New Health Cert.	Health Visitor.	Part.	School Nurse.
W. E. Henderson	M.B. etc., D.P.H.	School Medical Officer.	Part.	County M.O.H. and School Medical Officer.
F. W. Oxberry	M.I.M.C.E.	Surveyor.	Part	Borough Surveyor
T. Crowdy	M.I.Mech.E. F.C.S., F.R.Met.Soc., F.F.Sc. (London)	Water Engineer	Part	Gas Engineer
W. H. Roberts	M.Sc., F.I.C.	Public Analyst	Part	—
J. Wright	L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.	Ophthalmic Surgeon to Education Committee	Part	Assistant to County M.O.H.
J. Irvine	L.D.S.	School Dentist	Part	County School Dentist

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1935.

Area (acres)	...	...	..	3,691
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1935	...	...	...	17,270
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1935) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	5,003
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£116,314
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£450

Kendal is a market town serving an agricultural area within a radius of eight miles. In addition there are a number of industries which afford occupation to the inhabitants and the chief of which are:—

Boot and Shoe Manufactory.
 Carpet Mills.
 Engineering Works.
 Iron Foundries.
 Hosiery Manufactories.
 Tobacco Manufactories.
 Breweries.
 Laundering.
 Horse Clothing.

None of these trades have any particular influence on Public Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:—	Total	M.	F.	{ Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popu- lation, 14.1.
Legitimate	... 277	114	113	
Illegitimate	... 14	9	5	
Birth Rate: England and Wales, 14.7				
Still Births	... 13	9	4	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 51.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Deaths	... 243	117	126	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...			14.2
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...			13.2
Death Rate, England and Wales	...	...	...	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis	... 2	... 7.8
Other Puerperal Causes	... Nil	... Nil
Total	... 2	... 7.8
Maternal Mortality Rate, England and Wales	...	3.93
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—		
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	33
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	35
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	Nil
Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales	...	57
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	Nil

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor has there been any noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District.

Deaths were registered from the following causes:—

DISEASES.					M.	F.	Total.
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	..	..	..	..	14	24	38
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	6	24	30
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	23	20	43
Other Circulatory Diseases	..	..	..	..	8	7	15
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3	3	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	6	1	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
Other diseases of liver, etc.	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Other digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	..	13	10	23
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
Congenital Debility, Prematurity, Malformations, etc.	..	..	..	..	2	4	6
Senility	..	..	..	..	1	4	5
Suicide	..	..	..	..	7	1	8
Other Violence	..	..	..	..	10	3	13
Other Defined Diseases	..	..	..	..	8	9	17
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	1	—	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

No change has been made in these facilities.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) Infectious cases ... Municipal Motor Ambulance
 (b) Non-infectious cases ... do.

The Ambulance Service is very efficient and removed the following cases:—

Kendal infectious cases	...	...	36
Kendal non-infectious and maternity cases	...	...	187
Rural infectious cases	...	...	80
Rural non-infectious and maternity cases	...	...	125
			<hr/> 428
Number of miles run	...	...	<hr/>6649

Nursing in the Home.

There is no alteration in this service.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No new centres have been established.

Hospitals.

There has been no change in either the public or voluntary hospital services.

Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

The number of children between the ages of one and five who attended the Clinic was 25 less and Infants two more than in the previous year. The total attendances were considerably less, no doubt owing to the fact that there were no prizes to be won, thus the object of the attendance in the previous year was not a desire to benefit the child as regards its health and well-being but to gratify the parents' pride or cupidity. There has, however, been better scope for work in that a sufficient time has been available for the consideration of each child's condition.

The consultations for expectant mothers have increased, and a larger number of mothers have been admitted to the Maternity Ward of the County Hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Number of times the Centre has been opened	...	51	
„ babies under 1 year attending	...	120	} 214
„ children 1 to 5 years attending	...	94	
„ consultations for babies	...	1066	} 1992
„ „ children	...	514	
„ „ mothers	...	225	
„ „ expectant mothers	...	187	
Average number of babies attending each session	...	21	} 39
„ „ children attending each session	...	10	
„ „ mothers attending each session...	...	4.4	
„ „ expectant mothers attending each session	...	3.6	
Number of mothers admitted to Hospital under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act	20

Summary of Nurse Metcalfe's work:

First visits to Infants under 1 year	...	209	} 2641
Subsequent visits	...	1525	
Visits to children 1 to 5 years of age	...	649	
First visits to expectant mothers	...	56	
Subsequent visits	...	141	
Still-birth enquiries	...	9	
Infant death enquiries	...	7	
Attendance at Centre	...	45	

Summary of Nurse Hughes' work:

Visits to cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	26
--	-----	----

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths has again diminished, and of the 8 deaths 5 occurred within the first day and 1 other within the first week.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS.

Prematurity	Convulsions	Congenital Diseases	Other Causes	TOTAL
3	2	2	1	8

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY.

1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
6	—	1	—	7	—	—	1	—	8

RATEABLE VALUE OF HOUSES IN WHICH DEATHS OCCURRED.

Under £5	£5—£10	£10—£15	£15—£20	Over £20	TOTAL
1	4	2	—	2	8

Deaths by Wards.

Highgate Ward	...	...	...	2
Fell Ward	...	...	...	2
Strickland Ward	...	...	...	4
				—
				8

Children's Act, 1908.

These duties are regularly carried out by the Health Visitor: the number under supervision has been 14.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Water.**

The repairs to the dam at Fisher Tarn has provided good storage, and no supply has been received from Mints Feet. A certain amount of weed growth has occurred and 320 tons have been removed by mechanical means; some such work will probably have to be done each year in the Spring. There has been no recurrence of the fishy taste previously complained of.

There are 159 houses in the Borough which do not obtain their water supply from the Corporation mains. Of these the majority are at Oxenholme in the added Area, and obtain their supply from a small reservoir belonging to the South Westmorland Rural District Council. A few houses in the Scalthwaiterigg Area are connected to the Thirlmere pipe line.

No analysis of water has been made; a monthly bacteriological examination is made, and this shows that the water is safe for human consumption; a system of filtration would much improve the aesthetic appearance.

Summary of Results of Bacteriological Examinations:—

Month.	Fisher Tarn.		Birds Park.	
	B. Coli in c.c.'s.		B. Coli in c.c.'s.	
January	...	—40	...	—30
February	...	—50	...	—20
March	...	—40	...	—20
April	...	—10	...	—10
May	...	—30	...	—30
June	...	—20	...	—20
July	...	—50	...	—50
August	...	—40	...	—50
September	...	+10	...	+10
October	...	—50	...	+10
November	...	—50	...	+10
December	...	—40	...	—50
— is absent.		+ is present.		

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewer at Oxenholme Road has been completed as far as the railway line but has not yet been carried forward under the line to Bolefoot and other neighbouring houses. Until this be done, the work of conversion of privies and the abolition of cesspools in this area cannot be advanced.

All the cesspools along the route of Oxenholme Road sewer have been filled up and the drains connected as the work proceeded.

A new sewer has been constructed from the Disposal Works to a new housing estate at Collin Field.

There were complaints regarding the nuisance caused by the effluent from the sewage tanks at Kentrigg, and it was found that the capacity of these tanks was not sufficient for the increased number of houses now using them.

Arrangements have been made to extend the sewer from near Aikrigg End to take the drainage of all the houses on the east side of the road.

At the end of the year there were 257 houses (including farms) which did not discharge their drainage into Corporation sewers.

Rivers and Streams.

No serious pollution of the River Kent has been observed.

The effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works has been satisfactory throughout the year, and no complaints have been made by the supervising authority..

Closet Accommodation.

Washdown and washout closets	...	...	5235
Trough closets, flushed with clean water		...	80
Privies	...	...	103
Pail Closets	...	...	10
			<hr/>
			5428
			<hr/>
Privies or pails converted during the year		...	2
Trough Closets abolished	...	...	11

The extension of the Borough boundaries has brought in a number of houses with privies as their only sanitary accommodation. As soon as sewers are available the work of conversion to water closets will be commenced.

Public Cleansing.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by one S. and D. Freighter, one Karrier Colt, and one horse and cart.

The amount of refuse has increased considerably this year on account of the number of new houses erected and also the extension of the boundaries. The collection area now extends to more than 3 miles from north to south.

It has been found possible to carry out the additional work with the existing vehicles by employing more labour and by hiring an extra vehicle for a few days at holiday times. but the limit of elasticity has been reached and it will be necessary to consider the question of purchasing another vehicle.

Prior to April, 1935, the collection was mainly a weekly one, but with the addition of several privies and ashpits this is not now practicable.

The refuse tip at Rinkfield, which has been in use since June, 1929, was completely filled by August, and since that date refuse has been tipped in the disused head race at Low Mills.

During the time Rinkfield Tip was in use more than 31,000 loads of household refuse were tipped there, and probably an equal amount of other refuse. The filling up of the Low Mills race will remove a nuisance which has been a source of great annoyance to the residents in this neighbourhood for many years.

The composition of household refuse still tends to become lighter in weight and bulkier, and whereas 10 years ago the refuse weighed 7 cwts. per cubic yard, today it only weighs 5 cwts.; in consequence larger loads of less weight have to be removed, and the cost per ton increased.

Trade refuse is burnt in the incinerator at the Canal Head: this incinerator has been in continuous use for five years, and will soon require re-lining.

Slaughterhouse garbage is buried in pits at the Sewage Disposal Works.

The following is a summary of the work done:—

	Horses.	S & D.	Karrier.	Hired Motor	Totals.
No. of loads from ashbins...	948	2182	1736	27	4893
„ „ „ ashpits ...	111	5	46	—	162
„ „ trade refuse	308	3	233	—	544
„ „ slaughterhouse garbage ...	148	—	—	—	148
	<hr/> 1515	<hr/> 2190	<hr/> 2015	<hr/> 27	<hr/> 5747
Cubic yards of refuse ...	4003	13140	10073	135	27351
Tons of refuse (at 5 cwts. per cubic yard) ...	1001	3285	2518	34	6838
Cost of removal per cubic yard ...	1/11.2	1/1.1	1/3.5	1/0.4	1/3.5
Cost of removal per esti- mated ton ...	7/9	4/8.7	5/2	4/1.4	5/2
Cost of disposal per esti- mated ton ...	—	—	—	—	1/9.8
Gross cost of removal ...	£388	£722	£651	£7	£1768
„ „ disposal ...	...	...	...	...	£620
Total cost of removal and disposal per ton ...				...	6/11.8
„ „ „ „ premises ...				...	8/5.9
„ „ „ „ 1,000 population					£140
No. of premises from which refuse is removed				...	5623
Daily yield of refuse per 1,000 population			...		21.5 cwts.
No. of ashpits in use at end of year			...	...	59

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following is a summary of the inspections made and the defects or nuisances discovered during the year:—

Inspections and re-inspections of dwellings	...	1685
„ of yards	...	404
Visits to slaughterhouse	...	443

Inspections of offensive trades	...	...	107
„ common lodging houses	...	...	36
„ dairies and cowsheds	...	...	67
„ stables and piggeries	...	...	36
„ refuse depots	...	...	24
„ drainage work	...	...	334
„ work in progress	...	...	467
„ bakehouses and food premises	...	...	103
„ factories and workshops	...	...	43
„ schools	...	...	4
Miscellaneous inspections	...	...	10
Rooms disinfected	...	...	96
Enquiries into infectious diseases	...	...	58
Complaints received and enquired into	...	...	67
Inspections made for food and drugs	...	...	17
Drains tested	...	...	143
Drains examined	...	...	78
Houses visited for overcrowding under Housing Act, 1935	...	...	1118
Supervisional visits in connection with disinfection			305
Total			5645

Defects and Nuisances Discovered:—

Defective gullies	...	...	15
„ and choked drains	...	...	23
„ paving of yards	...	...	68
Bedrooms insufficiently lighted or ventilated	...	...	143
Living rooms insufficiently lighted or ventilated	...	...	52
„ „ with low ceilings (less than 7 ft.)	...	...	55
Bedrooms with low ceilings	...	...	108
Houses overcrowded	...	...	42
„ with defective roofs	...	...	78
„ „ „ floors	...	...	99
„ „ „ windows	...	...	39
„ „ „ stairs	...	...	72
„ „ „ ceilings	...	...	58

„	„	„	and damp walls	...	103		
„	„	„	chimney stacks	...	57		
„	„	„	kitchen ranges	...	67		
„	„	„	spouts and gutters	...	68		
„	„	„	doors	...	26		
„	„	„	sinks and sink wastes	...	44		
„	„	„	washhouses	...	22		
„	„	„	cellars	...	7		
„	without sink or water in the house			...	7		
„	with defective soil pipes			...	2		
„	„	„	plasterwork	...	43		
„	„	living rooms below ground level		...	9		
„	without through ventilation			...	16		
„	with defective ashbins			...	136		
„	„	no ventilation or light in the scullery		...	10		
„	„	pantries unlighted or ventilated		...	20		
„	„	defective scullery floors		...	5		
„	„	no pantry		...	30		
„	„	defective outbuildings		...	2		
„	„	insufficient water closets		...	29		
„	„	defective water closet structure		...	29		
„	„	„	„	„	apparatus	...	33
Water closets in filthy condition				3	
Oil engines causing a nuisance				1	
Lodging houses requiring limewashing				2	
Improper disposal of refuse				7	
Accumulation of offensive refuse				2	
Nuisances from stable middensteads				1	
Nuisances from offensive trades				4	
Defective spouts on buildings other than houses				3	
				Total	...	1640	

177 preliminary and 34 statutory notices were served in connection with the above defects.

It was necessary to take proceedings in one case before the Magistrates to secure abatement of a nuisance, and an order for abatement was made.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades.

The following offensive trades are established in the Borough:—

Fellmongers	...	...	1
Tallow Melters	...	...	1
Carcase Boilers	...	...	1
Tripe Boilers	...	...	1
Gut Scrapers	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	1
Rag Dealers	...	...	2
Fish Fryers	...	...	15

The methods adopted at the tallow melting works in Beezon Road have been fairly successful, and no serious nuisance has arisen.

The bone store in Captain French Lane has been kept under constant observation.

In the late part of the year a petition, signed by ten inhabitants of the Captain French Lane area, was presented to the Health Committee stating that the store was a nuisance and injurious to health. The petition was carefully considered by the Committee, and it was finally decided to leave the matter over until the beginning of the summer of 1936 for further consideration.

The old-established rag and bone store situated at Low Fellside has been disused for that purpose for more than six months. It will now be illegal for a similar trade to be recommenced without the consent of the authority.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

There are no byelaws in force for the regulation of houses let in lodgings.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There was no action required under this heading.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are three registered Common Lodging Houses. All the lodging houses are inspected at least once a month. There is no improvement to report on the question of good lodging accommodation for decent female lodgers.

Shops Act.

Owing to pressure of work in other directions it has been found impossible to carry out a survey of the shops, but it is hoped to be able to complete a register by the time of the next annual report.

Two cases came to the notice of the department where no sanitary conveniences and washing accommodation were provided. Notices were served and the work is in hand.

Smoke Abatement.

No detailed observations of chimneys have been taken, and from casual observations it has not been found necessary to serve any notices with regard to undue emissions of black smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The Corporation own and maintain a swimming bath, but this is more than fifty years old and does not come up to modern requirements.

There is no filtration plant in connection with the bath. The water is dosed with "Chloros," and changed twice each week. No bacteriological tests of the water have been made.

Plans for the reconstruction of the bath, including continuous filtration plant, have been before the Committee for some time, but no decision has been reached.

There are no privately owned swimming pools in the district.

Schools.

All the schools in the Borough have sanitary accommodation of the water-carriage type, and have the public water supply laid on.

No schools have been closed for infectious disease.

Rag Flock.

There are no premises where rag flock is manufactured, and no samples of flock have been taken for analysis.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including number given separately under (b)):—

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	148
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	Nil.
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	163

(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Act:—

(i) By the Local Authority:

(a) For the purpose of Part III of the Act of 1925	Nil.
(b) For the purpose of Part I of the Act of 1930...	148
(c) For other purposes	... Nil.

(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil.
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1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	579
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	1258

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	442
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	442

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	103
--	-----	-----	-----

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	130
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2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	96
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 16

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ... 14

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 18

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ... 18

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 24

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 12

(3) Undertakings accepted that house will not be used again for habitation ... 53

(d) Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 4

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... 2

Early in the year the Clearance Order for Chapel Lane was made and forwarded to the Ministry for approval.

On June 12th and 13th a public inquiry was held by an Inspector of the Ministry into the Council's application for the confirmation of eight Clearance Orders, viz.:—

Area.			No. of Houses.
Highgate No. 3	...	...	4
Kirkland No. 1	...	...	7
Stricklandgate No. 1	...	...	9
„ No. 2	...	...	8
Sepulchre Lane No. 1	...	...	3
„ No. 2	...	...	3
„ No. 3	...	...	5
Chapel Lane ...	...	...	58

At the inquiry most of the owners strenuously resisted the action of the Corporation.

In September the Minister confirmed all the orders with modifications, such modifications being the exclusion of certain buildings not dwellings, and all the dwellings belonging to the Corporation.

The Housing Act, 1935, which became law after the date of the inquiry, provides that houses belonging to the local authority may be included in a Clearance Area: the Council therefore declared the houses which had been excluded from the Chapel Lane and Highgate No. 1 Areas to be Clearance Areas, and re-submitted these to the Minister for approval.

Scheme 13, consisting of 72 houses for the purpose of re-housing persons displaced under the provisions of the 1930 Act, was completed, and Scheme 14 consisting of 100 houses was practically completed at the end of the year, but 50 of these latter houses were not yet quite fit for occupation.

122 families were re-housed during the year, being removed from Clearance Areas, and from other houses dealt with under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930, as under:—

From Clearance Areas	...	...	57
„ other Corporation Houses (filtering up)	...	...	7
„ houses where Demolition Orders were in force	...	...	24
„ „ „ Closing Orders were in force	...	...	7
„ „ „ undertakings had been accepted that the houses would not be used for habitation again	...	...	27
Total			122

As a number of the above houses were bug infested the Health Committee decided that no furnishings from any house should be moved into a new house before being disinfested.

This was done by means of Hydrocyanic Gas in the following manner:—

Two second-hand furniture vans were purchased, and in these the furnishings from two houses were moved to the Sanatorium each day and there fumigated. As the steam disinfector has been out of action for some time it was necessary to fumigate the bedding also, and as it was not safe to use this on the same night, mattresses and pillows were loaned to the tenants until their own bedding was returned.

There was some opposition to this procedure at first, but the people soon got used to the idea and after the first week no trouble was experienced.

It was rather a slow progress, as only 10 families per week could be re-housed.

The average cost per house for both fumigation and removal of furniture was about £4.

Certain articles had to be destroyed, but the cost of replacement was less than £5, including the cost of repairing certain furniture slightly damaged during removal.

In conjunction with re-housing the Corporation instituted a scheme for supplying furnishings and bedding on the hire purchase system, and a large number of persons took advantage of this, with the result that a quantity of old mattresses and other articles were destroyed voluntarily.

Demolition of houses in the Highgate No. 1 Area was commenced during the year.

Several of the owners offered to give their property in this area to the Corporation upon the condition that they were relieved of all liability for demolition. A special committee named the Land Re-development Committee has been formed to consider the clearance and re-development of such areas, with power to acquire lands and premises in such areas.

The overcrowding survey as required by the Housing Act, 1935, was commenced in December, but was not sufficiently advanced at the end of the year to justify any report being made.

No provision has been made by the Housing Committee for re-housing aged couples or single persons removed from houses in Clearance Areas or other condemned houses.

Differentiation in Rents for tenants who have been removed from Clearance Areas to new houses has now been established and is a wise economic measure.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

There are upon the register:—

Cowkeepers within the Borough ...	...	24
Retailers who are also producers ...	...	32
Retailers who purchase milk ...	...	48
Wholesalers ...	...	27

The extension of the Borough boundaries as from April 1st, 1935, has resulted in 12 additional farms which produce milk being included.

The Health Committee (in conjunction with the Public Health Committee of the County Council) has continued the taking of samples for the purposes of bacterial count, and biological examinations for the presence of tubercle bacillus: these are carried out at the Pathological Laboratory of the Cumberland Infirmary at Carlisle.

In all 168 samples have been taken from dealers who deliver milk in Kendal, and in four cases was tubercle infected milk discovered. Two of these cases were from one farm. In such cases the County Veterinary Officer visits the farm, examines the cows, and the infected animal is removed and destroyed.

During 1935 the Milk Marketing Board initiated a scheme whereby a producer of milk obtains an extra penny per gallon if he produces milk of a required standard. This standard requires that not more than 200,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre be present, and that bacillus coli must be absent in 1/100th of a cubic centimetre.

From the tables below it will be seen that only 67 of the 168 samples, viz., 39%, would qualify for this extra payment.

In comparison with the "Designated Milks, viz., "Certified" and "Grade A," the 168 samples were classed as follows:—

Equal to "Certified" milk	...	23 or 13.7%
Equal to "Grade A" milk	...	44 or 26.2%
Below "Grade A" standard	...	31 or 18.5%
Definitely bad	...	70 or 41.6%

Bacillus coli was as under:—

Present in 3 tubes (1/10th, 1/100th & 1/1000th c.c.)	...	64 or 38.1%
Present in 2 tubes (1/10th & 1/100th c.c.)	...	31 or 18.5%
Present in 1 tube (1/10th c.c.)	...	36 or 21.4%
Entirely absent	...	37 or 22%

168

The presence of bacillus coli in milk indicates manurial contamination.

Bacterial counts came within the following groups:—

Under 30,000 ("Certified" standard)	...	55 or 32.7%
30,000 to 200,000 ("Grade A" standard)	...	56 or 33.3%
200,000 to 500,000	...	12 or 7.1%
500,000 to 1,000,000	...	11 or 6.5%
Over 1,000,000	...	34 or 20.2%

The smallest bacterial count recorded was 1,253 bacteria per c.c. and the largest 27,000,000. One sample was reported to contain so many bacteria that it was impossible to count them. Both these latter samples came from producers outside the Borough.

Of the 168 samples, 57 were taken from Kendal Producers, and the general standard of cleanliness was lower than that of milk derived from the country.

The lowest bacterial count was 1,846 bacteria per c.c., and the highest 14,060,000 bacteria per c.c.

Where reports are not satisfactory, visits are paid to farms to try to secure better results, and milk producers, as a whole, are generally willing to comply with suggestions and to remedy defects. Notices have been served upon occupiers of two farms to provide adequate paving of floors and channels, extra light and ventilation, proper drainage of floors and paved approach to cowsheds.

Once again it should be stressed that elaborate buildings are not essential for the production of good milk. A certain producer, whose premises are by no means modern, had successively good samples, whilst another with modern amenities had the reverse.

Success can only be assured where scrupulous cleanliness is observed at all stages in the production and distribution of milk.

The salient point to remember is that it is better to keep dirt out rather than to try to strain it out. Foreign bodies such as bits of straw can be removed, but bacillus coli cannot be strained out even though the finest sieve be used.

The ideal method of distributing milk to the public is by bottling; service from a hand-can leaves much to be desired, and even when cleanly served, it is often into a jug or basin on the doorstep. This method affords very favourable means for contamination with bacteria.

No designated milks are produced within the Borough, but "Certified" and "Grade A" milks are retailed.

Eleven samples of "certified" milk were examined during the year, and one sample did not comply with the prescribed conditions, as it contained B.Coli in 1/10 c.c. in each of three tubes.

The highest bacterial count was 14,330 and the lowest 290.

Meat.

As a result of representations from the R.S.P.C.A. and the Butchers' Association, the Borough Surveyor has prepared a plan and estimate for alterations and extensions to the Slaughter-House to relieve the existing congestion on certain days.

These proposals have been submitted to the Ministry of Health, who have appointed an Inspector to go into the matter. A decision should therefore be reached early in 1936.

There are no private slaughter-houses in the Borough.

The following is a return of the number of animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughter-House during the past three years:—

Year.		Beasts.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Calves.	Total.
1933	...	1,013	10,096	1,677	109	12,895
1934	...	1,141	9,446	1,874	99	12,560
1935	...	1,258	9,211	2,034	87	12,590

459 cases of Tuberculosis were found (87 bovines and 372 pigs). Of the bovines affected, 36 were cows, 41 heifers, 9 bullocks and 1 bull. Of the 372 pigs, the intestines alone were involved in 136 cases.

The percentage of animals affected was:—6.91% bovines, 18.28% pigs.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Portion Destroyed.			Cows	Heifers	Bulls	Bullocks	Pigs	TOTAL
Total carcase and viscera	..	..	5	7	—	1	12	25
Hind and forequarters and viscera	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Both forequarters and viscera	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Forequarter and viscera	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Complete viscera	..	..	10	3	—	2	—	15
Head and viscera	..	..	—	—	—	—	13	13
Head, lungs and liver	..	..	—	—	—	—	4	4
Head, lungs and intestines	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Head and intestines	..	..	—	1	—	—	86	87
Head and lungs	..	..	4	6	—	1	—	11
Head only	..	..	8	10	1	4	89	112
Lungs, diaphragm, and intestines	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Lungs, heart and diaphragm	..	..	1	2	—	—	—	3
Lungs, liver and intestines	..	..	—	—	—	—	14	14
Lungs and liver	..	..	—	1	—	—	1	2
Lungs and intestines	..	..	1	2	—	—	—	3
Intestines only	..	..	—	—	—	—	136	136
Liver only	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Head, lungs, liver and intestines	..	..	—	—	—	—	17	17
Head and udder	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Lungs and diaphragm	..	..	2	4	—	1	—	7
Lungs, diaphragm, liver and intestines	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diaphragm only	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Head, diaphragm and intestines	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	..	..	36	41	1	9	372	459

The following meat was also condemned at the Public Slaughter-House:—

Carcase of pig (emaciation)	...	...	...	1
„ „ (arthritis)	...	...	...	1
„ „ (injuries)	...	...	...	1
Pig's head (injuries)	...	...	...	1
Pork (injury)	...	...	...	5 lbs.

Total offals of pigs (inflammation)	...	..	3
Pig's lungs, heart, stomach and intestines (inflammation)	...	...	1
„ pluck, stomach and intestines (abscesses)	..		1
„ legs (fractures)	...	...	6
„ pluck (tenuicollis cysts)	...	...	1
„ „ (cirrhosis)	...	...	2
„ „ (cysts)	...	...	1
„ „ (inflammation)	...	...	1
„ plucks (parasites)	...	...	9
„ stomach (inflammation)	...	...	1
„ heads (abscesses)	...	...	2
Sheep's livers (flukes)	...	...	25
„ head (abscesses)	...	...	1
Carcases of sheep (poorness)	...	...	3
„ „ „ (emaciation)	...	...	2
„ „ „ (dropsy)	...	...	4
Hindquarter of lamb (injury)	...	...	1
Forequarter, head and pluck of sheep (injury)	...		1
Sheep's head and pluck (coenurus cerebralis)	...		1
„ pluck (abscesses)	...	...	1
Carcase of sheep (injury)	...	...	1
„ „ „ (abscesses)	...	...	1
Sheep's plucks (inflammation)	...	...	5
Pluck and kidneys of sheep (injury)	...	...	1
Carcase of bull (injury)	...	...	1
Both hindquarters, stomachs and intestines of heifers (injury)	...	...	2
Carcase of calf (immaturity)	...	...	1
„ „ „ (joint ill)	...	...	1
Lungs, diaphragm and liver of heifer (abscesses)	...		1
Beasts' livers (flukes)	...	...	130
„ „ (abscesses)	...	...	3
„ kidneys (necrosis)	...	...	3

„	„	(nephritis)	...	...	...	1
„	„	(cysts)	...	...	...	4
Cows'	udders	(mastitis)	...	...	...	3
Head and tongue of	heifer	(abscesses)	...	...	...	1
Liver and diaphragm of	bullock	(abscesses)	...	...	...	1
Head and tongue of	cow	(actinomycosis)	...	...	...	3
„	„	heifer	„	...	...	1
Diaphragm of	heifer	(abscesses)	...	...	...	1
Beef	(abscesses)	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.

Food condemned in Shops or other premises:—

18 lbs. Corned Beef (decomposition).

Pig's pluck and kidneys (injury).

9 lbs. of tripe (decomposition).

42 lbs. of kippers (decomposition).

6 lbs. of tongue (decomposition).

126 lbs. of fillets (decomposition).

101 lbs. beef (decomposition).

All premises where food and meat products are prepared have been inspected, and generally were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

ADULTERATION, Etc., AND CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is carried out by Mr. W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.I.C., of Liverpool.

91 samples of food were taken for analysis as detailed below (51 formal and 40 informal).

Article.	No. of sample.	Result.	Remarks.
Milk ..	46	Genuine	
Milk ..	1	2.80% Milk Fat 9.25% Non-Fatty Solids	Deprived of 6% of its milk fat. Formal sample See following sample.
Milk ..	1	2.65% Milk Fat 9.31% Non-Fatty Solids	Taken at place of delivery. Deprived of 11% of its milk fat. Producer warned by letter. Further samples proved satisfactory.
Milk ..	1	2.93% Milk Fat 9.05% Non-Fatty Solids	Deficient in Milk Fat. Further samples satisfactory.
Milk ..	1	2.80% Milk Fat 8.94% Non-Fatty Solids	Deprived of 6% of its milk fat. Further samples satisfactory.
Milk ..	1	2.82% Milk Fat 9.08% Non-Fatty Solids	Deprived of 6% of its milk fat. Further samples satisfactory.
Sausages	1	45% Meat	Informal sample. Deficient in meat to the extent of 10%. Formal sample taken proved satisfactory.
Sausages	1	70% Meat	Formal sample. Free from preservative.
Sausages	1	40% Meat	Informal sample. Deficient in meat to the extent of 20%. Vendors warned by letter.
Sausages	10	Genuine	
Salmon Paste	1	„	Free from preservative.
Brawn ..	2	„	
Margarine	3	„	
Tea ..	2	„	
Tinned Cream	1	„	Free from preservative.
Cream ..	2	„	„ „
Butter ..	1	„	Informal sample. Slightly rancid.
Butter ..	8	„	
Cream Butter	1	„	
Tripe ..	1	„	
Lard ..	2	„	
Coffee ..	3	„	
	91		

In the milks the highest fat content was 4.35%, and the highest non-fatty content was 9.60%. The average percentage of milk fat and non-fatty solids in all milks (genuine and non-genuine) was 3.45% and 9.39% respectively.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912.

	No. of samples examined for presence of preservatives.		No. of samples which contained preservatives.	
Milk	...	51	...	Nil.
Cream	...	3	...	Nil.

Health Education.

There is a considerable amount of dissemination of knowledge relating to health and disease, through the Women's Institutes and through health talks at the schools by the School Medical Officers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease was small and continued to show a further decline in comparison with the previous year, which also showed a similar decrease on that of 1933. There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever as against 20 in the previous year. Diphtheria caused 16 cases to be notified, which was 10 less than in the previous year; of these, one was a very severe type, death taking place within 48 hours of the onset; this was the only fatal case; of these 16 cases more than half occurred in the latter two months of the year, during which period there was incessant rain with a fairly high temperature. Diphtheria is a difficult disease to control in that so many potential propagators are perfectly well and in many cases are only discovered in the course of investigating outbreaks; the only scientific method of control, so far as at present known, is by the process of immunization of possible recipients of infection.

The Council has very wisely offered to provide the necessary facilities for artificial immunization free of charge, and it is hoped that this may be taken advantage of in the future years. Half the Metropolitan and County Boroughs provide this facility, but so far comparatively few other Sanitary Districts have done so.

Diphtheria antitoxin has been promptly utilised, and this is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases, excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act: also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes.

Notifications of 5 cases of Erysipelas and 1 of Encephalitis Lethargica were received, the latter case proving fatal.

Of Puerperal cases there were two of Pyrexia, of which 1 died, and 2 of Fever, both of whom died; one of these was admitted to the County Hospital from the country and, as far as the Borough is concerned, is a transferable death. With the relatively small number of births in the Borough, these figures show a very high death rate as compared with the National death rate.

There were 3 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 of which was treated in hospital; there was no impairment of vision in any of them.

The notification of Pneumonia under the Regulations of 19th of October, 1927, has not been of any use. Of the 5 cases notified, 1 was fatal, but it is obvious from the Registrar's death returns, which show no less than 5 other deaths from this cause, that a large number have never been notified, the medical profession considering that there is little use in doing so, as the infection from such cases is so slight as to be rarely passed on to a second person. There seems to be scope here for effective economy with no detriment to Public Health.

The hospital accommodation has been sufficient, so there has been no need to shorten the duration of isolation of any case.

The County Council has had under consideration for the past two years the whole of the Isolation Hospital question for the County; various schemes have been put forward, but so far there has been no definite decision.

No use has been made of Schick or Dick tests nor of artificial immunization.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

There was no serious epidemic of Influenza during the year, but Whooping Cough was very prevalent during the autumn.

A close liaison exists with the School Medical Officer, and thus school notifications are always available and utilised where necessary.

Permits and articles exposed to infections are disinfected by formaldehyde free of charge; 96 rooms in 53 houses have been dealt with during the year; disinfectants are also distributed free to houses in which a tuberculous patient resides.

The Public Assistance Committee's Institution provides facilities for disinfestation.

Arrangements have been made between the Westmorland County Hospital and the Manchester Radium Institute for the treatment of cases of malignant disease by radium, when so required.

No action has been necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, with regard to the prevention or treatment of blindness.

LABORATORY REPORT.

The following Laboratory Examinations were done at the Combined Sanitary Districts Laboratory at Kendal:—

193	Diphtheria	
8	Tubercle (Sputum)	
10	Typhoid & Paratyphoid	
8	Urine. Bacilluria.	
1	Pus Organisms	
1	Blood Disease	
4	Gonococcus	
2	Analysis	Water
27	B. Coli.	
21	Count.	Milk
21	B. Coli.	
296	TOTAL.	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1936.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages.										Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever ..	15	—	1	1	1	1	6	3	—	2	—	—	14
Diphtheria ..	16	—	1	—	1	2	7	3	—	1	—	1	15
Pneumonia ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	2
Erysipelas ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	2
Puerperal Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTAL ..	49	3	2	1	2	3	13	7	2	9	3	4	38
													6

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	3	4	—	—	1	2	—	—
25	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	3	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	13	1	1	5	3	—	1

Tuberculosis.

There was a decrease in the number of cases notified during the year, 23 pulmonary as against 25, and 2 non-pulmonary as against 8. During the year 8 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary died, and of these 5 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary occurred in persons notified for the first time during the year.

In addition 2 persons who had contracted the disease outside the area came to reside within it.

No cases occurred in persons who were unemployed.

There was one case of death from this disease, the existence of which had not previously been notified.

No action has been necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925.

The administration of Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease is under the County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

		Inspections.		Notices.
Factories	...	43	...	3
Workshops	...	161	...	8
Workplaces	...	19	...	1
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		223		12
		<hr/>		<hr/>

		Defects Found.		Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	...	3	...	3
Sanitary accommodation insufficient		1	...	1
Sanitary accommodation defective		2	...	2
Other nuisances	...	6	...	6
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		12		12
		<hr/>		<hr/>



0/11/6/5